REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated September 15, 2008, and completion of the personal interview of October 22, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein. The Examiner's acceptance of the drawings filed on May 22, 2008, and withdrawal of previous rejections made under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is noted with appreciation. Claims 1-3, 6-11, and 14-16 are currently pending.

The specification has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection to the title's lack of descriptiveness. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,542,261 to McGraw (*hereinafter*, "McGraw"). In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

The subject application is directed to a system and method for processing of electronic documents. An electronic representation of a paper document is generated, and an associated tangible template sheet is received, which template sheet is inclusive of a plurality of handwritten indicia corresponding to an instruction for a desired document processing operation including e-mail transmission and facsimile transmission, characters indicative of a desired recipient for an electronic document and an instruction specifying a selected electronic document format for the electronic document. The instructions are optically recognized, character data is generated from the characters, a confirmation display is generated, confirmation input is received from the user in accordance with the display, and an instruction signal is generated in accordance with the recognized instructions. The operation of an associated document processing device on the electronic representation of the paper document is controlled in accordance with the instruction signal so as to generate an electronic document in the specified electronic document format, and an output document is generated. The output document is communicated in the specified electronic document format to a destination in accordance with the instruction signal.

As discussed during the Interview, McGraw is directed to a facsimile cover sheet that includes an area for handwritten text. However, such text is merely captured and propagated. It is not used in conjunction with e-mail addressing. As discussed, the subject application advantageously teaches an embodiment wherein a user can use handwritten information on a

cover sheet to specify e-mail addressing. This ability relies on the teachings inclusive of a scanner and an optical character recognition system. This facilitates conversion of handwritten e-mail addresses into string data, such as ASCII text, which can then be used for routing to a desired e-mail address. Figure 7 of the subject application evidences another aspect of an embodiment of the subject application that is advantageously implemented for e-mail routing. The subject application teaches generation of a confirmation screen to a user which allows for confirming or correcting an e-mail address as scanned in via OCR as noted above. Unlike numeric entries which have only 10 characters, 0-9, e-mail addresses can comprise many different numbers or letters. OCR input with such varied character input is subject to errors. Additionally, unlike facsimile transmissions which may result in a call to a non-fax number and failure to send a message, a simple change in one or more e-mail address characters can suitably result in a message being relayed to an improper entity. This may result in a breach of confidential information or reliance on a mistaken belief that the proper recipient received a transmission. Finally, a facsimile number may typically be comprised of 7 or 10 numeric entries, while an e-mail address frequently has many more than 10 characters. A greater number of a larger set of characters substantially increases a chance of erroneous entry relative to e-mail addressing via OCR input.

Amendment has been made to each of independent claims 1 and 9 to more patentably distinguish all claims over the art of record. In accordance with this amendment, all claims include limitations wherein handwritten characters forming an e-mail address are scanned, converted via OCR, and displayed to a user for confirmation.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art, and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/31349.

Respectfully submitted,

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